



February Newsletter 2T and 2B

February 3rd, 2012

Math Makes Sense

We are currently working on developing strategies for adding and subtracting 1-digit numbers. You can help your child at home by doing with them some of the following activities, as suggested in the "Math Makes Sense" teachers' guide:

- Share addition and subtraction story problems about things in your neighbourhood.
- Have your child build a set of 5 to 9 pennies and then add 1, 2, or 3 pennies to that number. Have your child tell the addition sentence. Then take away the same number of pennies and have your child tell the subtraction sentence.
- With your child, look around the home for items that come in equal sets. Discuss what happens if you add items or take a few items away.
- When you set the table, have your child add groups of items on the table (forks, knives, and glasses). Try adding them in a different order. Have your child explain why the order doesn't matter.
- When you spend leisure time with your child, pose different missing parts problems. Have your child explain how he or she figured out the answer.
- When you solve everyday subtraction problems, ask your child questions such as, "What do we already know?" "What piece is missing?"
- Use two digits to write and solve addition sentences with your child. For example, if the digits are 8 and 9, the sentence is $8+9=17$.
- Ask your child to tell a number story using a double or near doubles.
- Watch for situations where your child can use a strategy to add or subtract 1-digit numbers.

Valentine Celebration

The grade two classes will be having their Valentine celebrations on **Monday, February 13th** in order that our student interns, Mrs. Pyne and Miss Tozer, can be present. We have sent home class lists so that children can begin writing out their cards. If you wish to send a small treat, please remember that we are a peanut-free school. Healthy snacks and/or non-edible treats are always welcome!!

Introducing the Writing Traits

As you are aware, the grade two students will write provincial literacy assessments this coming spring. For the next few months, we will feature one or two of the five writing traits on which the children will be assessed. In order to achieve appropriate development on their writing, they must achieve a pass in each of the five traits (Content, Organization, Sentence Structure, Conventions, and Word Choice). Below is a brief description of what would be considered acceptable for the first two traits:

Writing Achievement Standards Appropriate Achievement

Content (overall topic, degree of focus, and related details)

- choose a general topic; communicate message predominantly through written words
- include ideas/events (may not be explicitly stated), usually based on personal experiences, simple opinions or basic information
- include some supporting details to expand upon the ideas/events; may have some "gaps" or irrelevant information

Organization (structure and form, dependent on purpose and audience)

- decide upon a general purpose
- include a simple beginning that identifies the topic
- present ideas/events in a basic sequence
- link ideas with simple connecting words (e.g., and, then, so)
- attempt a conclusion but may be abrupt

Websites of the Month

Check out the following:

<http://www.topmarks.co.uk/EducationalGames.aspx?cat=1>

<http://www.groundhogs.com/Default.htm>

http://www.abcteach.com/directory/basics/math/100th_day_of_school/

A Bit of Humour:

Q. What did the stamp say to the envelope on Valentine's Day?
A. *I'm stuck on you!*

Q. What did the boy squirrel say to the girl squirrel on Valentine's Day?
A. *I'm nuts about you!*

Knock knock!
Who's there?
Frank.
Frank who?
Frank you for being my friend!